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Organization:
Title:
Comments: The White River National Forest matters to me. I use and enjoy public lands on the White River National Forest for skiing and many other activities. What matters most: ski areas are highly impactful. This project is a bridge too far. A-Basin already draws substantial water out of the North Fork of the Snake River at critical times of year. Ski areas snowmaking needs will continue to grow as climate change continues to heat up the region and reduce natural snowpack. Now is the time to draw a line and say: no more. If the ski industry is going to make it with a changing climate, they're going to have to figure out more efficient and less damaging ways to do it. We can't drain our rivers and creeks to fuel industry operations that are increasingly unsustainable with every passing year. We need to take a hard look at the ski area program and the USFS's ski area management in light of what we know about climate change and chart a new course.

I oppose this action as proposed, and I ask the agency to weigh the specific harms below.

I ask the agency to respond to each of the following issues in the record:
1. The Forest Service should not lift the 25% cap on snowmaking coverage that was established in the 1999 A-Basin Master Development Plan EIS and Record of Decision without rigorous environmental review.
2. Removing this longstanding snowmaking withdrawal limitation on White River National Forest land could significantly expand water use within the Arapahoe Basin Special Use Permit Area.
3. The proposed addition of two new parking lots and a pedestrian overpass represents a major infrastructure change on White River National Forest land that deserves full public scrutiny in the Environmental Assessment.
4. I urge the Forest Service to carefully evaluate the installation of Remote Avalanche Control Systems within the Arapahoe Basin Special Use Permit Area as part of the required NEPA process before any decision is made.